

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Buttiker (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0176583). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method for modifying validity of a certificate using biometric information in a public key infrastructure-based authentication system that includes accessing a server of the certificate authority using login information of the user in response to a certificate validity modification request from the user under the condition that he/she is registered as a member in the authentication system; inputting the biometric information for a user authentication through a biometric information input unit in the user system; generating a certificate validity modification request message in response to the certificate validity modification request from the user; and sending the inputted biometric information and the generated certificate validity modification request message to the certificate authority to request the certificate validity modification online.

As discussed previously, Buttiker is directed to a process and to an end objective that are completely distinct from those to which the pending application is directed. In particular, while the pending claims of the present application are directed to a method for modifying online the validity of certificates by users who are registered members of a PKI-based authentication system, Buttiker pertains exclusively to a system, method and token for registering new users to a public key infrastructure (PKI) system.

The Examiner alleges that this argument is not persuasive because Buttiker discloses validation, of certificates and maintenance of revoked certificates (paragraphs [0014], [0017], [0047], and [0062] of Buttiker. However, these functions in Buttiker relate to registering new users, not to modifying the validity of certificates of users who are already members. The Examiner has not provided any support of the teachings that are alleged to be in Buttiker (i.e., modifying the validity of certificates of users who are already members). As previously discussed, the mere existence of a certification authority is not sufficient to anticipate or obviate the certificate validity modification method recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Buttiker fails to teach, or even suggest, a method for modifying validity of a certificate using biometric information in a public key infrastructure-based authentication system that includes accessing a server of the certificate authority using login information of the user in

response to a certificate validity modification request from the user under the condition that he/she is registered as a member in the authentication system; inputting the biometric information for a user authentication through a biometric information input unit in the user system; generating a certificate validity modification request message in response to the certificate validity modification request from the user; and sending the inputted biometric information and the generated certificate validity modification request message to the certificate authority to request the certificate validity modification online, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 since claim 3 recites features that are similar to the features of claim 1 discussed above.

Claims 2 and 4-15 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 3 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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